

1 guy, Paul only. Up under Training Camp

CONFIDENTIAL

PH memo "Paid at Lacombe, La. 7/31/63"

9/26/69

This memo is more fascinating to me than I can tell you, because it fits with so much I know and have reason to believe to be close to the truth. Yet it is also, as is my pertinent knowledge, without confirmation.

Let me begin with a question I hope you can answer, the source of your statement, "From information on hand here, two of the individuals apprehended and quickly released ~~now~~ were : Miguel Alvarez Jiminez and Antonio ~~now~~ Soto Vasquez".

Were it not for your indirection, I'd presume it is from the papers. Let me go back a bit. Some time ago I asked your group, or I asked ~~me~~ to have someone, check the paper, particularly the Miami papers, for Cuban activities as of that period. I got a set of carbons. I loaned them to N.O. for them to copy and return. I do not believe I ever got them back. However, I made some notes first. Of the two documents in the attached photocopy of two papers in my "Training Camp" file, one seems to be from Dom Bonsafede's writing. The second one, which I got from Hoke May, who told me he got it from Garrison, is in the same sequence, as you can note.

So, it may be that Garrison had no independent knowledge (the usual situation). I know that Boxley was working on this, including an offshoot near Baton Rouge. This means it is undependable and probably no one knows anything about it. None of this is in their camp file, nor is it in Oser's memos, and he was then conducting the camp investigation (he even had the wrong location for the McLaney cottage).

If you recall my memo of July a year ago, you will recall that I established four Cuban camps simultaneously existing on the north shore of the lake. Three of these I learned of through a lieutenant in the St. Tammany's sheriff's office, who told me he went to three different ones the same night and under injunctions not to flush the men at one (which one I do not know). Recall also I located Ricardo's then-girl friend, have her on tape and her picture (and, incredibly, she is now married to a deputy sheriff). The camp she describes as Ricardo's may be the one photographed for me by the sheriff's office, which is identical with the one Oser located, with a swimming-pool as a landmark.

What makes me wonder about your source is your failure to note that the man you mention, as mentioned in a Turner article (which I also regard as an undependable source, no personal offense intended, for he and JG are both undependable), Pedro Acelo Amores" appears in both ~~now~~ my lists in the same place, three up, as Acelo Pedro Amores.

Let me flash back four months and then five days. Mac told me by phone, by an ellipsis he and I would understand, that they finally got confirmation of what they had refused to believe coming from me (because of a more than warranted doubt about the integrity of my source), of something I had looked for on Good Friday. That I'll never forget, for they barged in on me with a young woman I had just turned one and wanted to handle my own way. You should know the essence of this story, having to do with her presence at such a camp, with others, named, some of interest to us if from the existing record. Instead of letting me handle this my way, the agreement I had with JG, who had met my terms, they keep hands off 100% unless I asked for help, that morning, while I was going about my business with her, my way, at the motel, I got a call from Ivan, from the desk, asking us to join him and Alcock for coffee in the coffee shop. We did, and in the course of it they casually asked us to go with them to look for this camp. Now the chick had already told me that, when she had been but 17 and after the passing of five years, she doubted she could find it. I had gone through that with her. I had gotten several clues, on tape. I kept returning, in devious ways, and had gotten things that could be checked as a beginning point. Of

I recall a description of a walk down a firebreak (there like oversized drainage ditches), a sign along the road (I found it), and other things that could have been located by helicopter (a stream, a bridge, etc.). I asked Louis to have the police chopper or another look for this or made available, but they would do nothing. So, with misgivings, I went. She said from the first she doubted she could do it. She also blew their minds when we got into Alcock's office car, a Lincoln taken from a dope pusher, and asked him what he was doing with the car of the guy, who she named exactly correctly. While they were still gasping, she asked about certain irregularities of that car (and was right). Well, as we drove along, when she found nothing she said was familiar, "this just started to drive this way and that, without any directions from her, and at the end of a long hot day, they decided she had made it all up. She did not, could not have. She may not have been at the camp, or she may not have been there in the summer of 1968, but she was there and she did give me an accurate description (later checked out with the local sheriff). The details were simply fantastic, and they largely coincide with the indistinct recollection of Davis's chick, with salient particulars exactly alike, like a screened-in porch used as a barracks and the dilapidated condition of the screening.

Here I digress to say she had also made at least one trip of which I knew to that general area with Layton Martens 10/67 or 11/67. I reported her and this and the otherthings I had picked up about her to JGK then. It excited him greatly (this was when I was on the way out there, as you may recall). But he did nothing, which is what got me started in April 1968, when I learned about it. I'm leaving much out, of course.

Hal knows this whole story, in confidence. I have no objection to his telling you and Jim, but to go no further, please, under any circumstances. This kid may be some kind of psycho, is the most nonstop liar I've ever met, but an enormous amount of what she told me checks out perfectly. Everything I have thought worth checking, or within my capability, absolutely does stack up. There is a vast amount in which I have no confidence and never tried to verify. But some of the most improbable stuff turned out to be true. One of the by-products is that I got enough to jail Bringuer, but Jim would not do anything.

Well, in May or June Mac told me they had confirmation, promised to get it to me, but was openly paranoid. However, he knew two dependable drops he could use, friends of mine he remembers, having met and dined with them. He remembers them so clearly he never fails to ask for them. I told him he knew how to get this to me safely. He considered it that hot. Silence. My letters, unanswered. This is one of the things I asked Bud to try and get can carry back to me.

There are some aspects of this I have felt it best to keep on the back burner. I have checked only some of the names at the Archives-not one from the alleged camp arrest. The Steinmeyer report (O in N.O.) is no simple incompetence. This is where the hair is short. I've been afraid to flag interest until I learned everything possible, and I've come close to an absolute dead end for the immediate, immobilized as I am and have been. However, if there is someone you can trust, or if you and Jim are getting fairly decent service, it would be good to try now with Simmons alone in the office. I have been intending to just go down there someday and ask Mike for those name files, without advance warning. I still think this is the best approach, but I'd defer to your contrary opinion.

Now, this chick told me about some flying at or connected with the camp. I found an airstrip very close to it, near Lacombe. (By the way, the McLaney cabin is not in Lacombe, but it is not distant. I have pictures I took and the story behind the raid, forced by the typical Cuban stupidities-they almost blew the countryside up. The neighbor on the back gave me the whole story. And this was all taken out of their hands not only of the local sheriff's office, but even of the local State police. Investigation was from the Baton Rouge Barracks. I have the name of the

sergeant in charge. Without taking time to check the most voluminous notes, I think it is Martin. I got it first from the girl, then I got confirmation from the sheriff and the local State boys. See how far back my interest in the Baton Rouge barracks goes? Now this is dope the Garrison office didn't have, but the girl did. It is hardly her invention.

So, you also see my interest in these characters, my caution with them. I hope you can restrict your distribution of this memo, for there seems to be nothing anyone else in the field has done about this or can do, outside of checking these names out at the Archives. I regard it is potentially very important. It is one of the things I intend going into in AGENT OSWALD.

Here let me point something else out. I've been trying for years to get pictures of those boys. Several times I've been close. Reread the Wise-Ross description of Soto, give him a special kind of haircut, and see if he doesn't closely fit the Andrews description of the short, heavy-set man with the Butch haircut! I have much more on this from seen, who is also a king-sized liar, but I believe much of what he told me about this man. It is not as Liebelser led him into saying. All the gay stuff was diversion, neatly Liebelsered in. By coincidence there were gay boys there the first time only, but Oswald was not with them. On at least four other visits, as on this, he was accompanied by this short, stock, fist-city man. Now, perhaps, you can see some additional interests I had in Johann Rush's, stills, if any.

In one form or another, to you, Hal and Gary, and to JG, all of this has been on paper and possibly has been seen by eyes I didn't intend. However, there are other things I feel it best not to go into now, including the strange history of my strange source, a post HW history that is remarkably consistent with what you should find interest in all of this, if I have made it clear enough. I have extra copies of everything culled away, not in my regular safe-deposit box. Thus you can also see the importance I attribute to this. I must have not less than 50-100 hours on interviews on and related to this on tape, notes of what I just couldn't get on tape, etc....had there not been the typical N.O. f.p., we'd have rocked and others would have rolled. If you discuss this with Hal, ask him if he recalls a story I think I never got to tell you but did tell him, of an odd thing Moo did end of a dramatic confrontation I had with him over it at the N.O.A.C., with Jim's face getting purpler and purpler.

The Baton-Rouge area camp was, I believe, on or near Rogue River. I know little about that.

~~XIXXXXXXXXXX~~ You presumed wrong in presuming "some work was done at N.O. checking into the Lacombe people". They didn't even follow the excellent leads I gave, such as the other deputy on the nocturnal visits (who knew more about the camps, had a heart attack and couldn't see me when I was there, and lives within walking distance of the crossroads store/bar to which Ricardo trucked his boys for relaxation and from which he or another camp leader got his groceries (three-four miles from where I found Ricardo's girl five years later!). I even had the names of the men his wife was entertaining, etc. That one, by the way, Gurvich loused up very early. He and Alcock flew to Houston and interviewed Ricardo, and not until they got back did Gurvich discover his tape recorder wasn't working! I wanted them to call Ricardo either right before the trial, privately, or as a witness, but they refused. If you recall my interview with him, there is one reason that fit perfectly.

Now add to this what I've already told you about that I learned from Chandler after you sent me the FBI report on him (there should have been more than one but apparently there isn't), what I told you Bringuiere told Moo that Moo didn't recall (or said he didn't). B and O each placed the other at a camp!

And there is absolutely no doubt Bringuer perjured himself about the date Oswald was at his place. It was at the latest mid-July, well before there was any fun ybusiness with Hank Fernandez, and could have been as early as when school summer vacation began. I've got this documented and on tape, with Geraci, his father and his mother, all separately saying exactly that. Each had a way of dating it. And I have the receipts Bringuer gave Philip. They are dated. And more of which you know, things that are culpable.

There is no telling where I could have gotten if Jim had first, kept his word and stayed out of it and second, done the few simple things I asked of him. Here you have one measure of the cuteness of my N.O. disappointments, why I have been so blunt with some of you in characterizing the professional incompetence there, and the very bad attitude, the least reprehensible being jealousy.

My N.O. files are largely unclassified. My mind has been off of this so long I've forgotten whiverton. Please refresh me on this. There is no doubt the name is right and figures in this, but I cannot recall how and have no separate file.

Incidentally, I can place Oswald (not the most solid witnesses-say) at the home of a man who was also in touch with Bob Brown!

In the course of seeking these names, I found something I had misplaced, the list of Stuckey urban stories that had been prepared for me by this man. They are not in the morgue of the local papers. I checked that out personally, with the executive editor taking me to his librarian. Strange, no? If you want a copy, remind me it is in my Training Camp file. I think Gary said he'd try and borrow the microfilm on inter-library loan.

Continuing with this is painful. It is the essence and answers you concluding question at least in part. There is one thing I add before a reminder: I sent you a copy of what PG told me happened to him on a very significant night. I could not get anyone to carry this further. It can fit this scheme several ways, but the one thing that cannot be said for it is that the explanation given him and his mother could be true. Neither reason is at all credible. I'd prefer not spelling this out again. So, the reminder: unless you have compelling reasons to the contrary, I'd like you to keep what you have learned on your own that may be true and what I have added some of which is without doubt beyond any possibility of contradiction entirely confidential. I regard it as one of the more significant possibilities.

CD 1245:274-5 made me think of the copy of the original of the manifest I had. I cannot now find it. My recollection is the original CD is a photostat, oversized. If you send me any response to this, I'd like a copy of those two pages to keep in the "to do" part of the file. Is it possible this is one of the things Gary got and I sent to you to copy? If it is, I thought I'd file all of that properly when I got it. If I have this, I've not classified it, in any event, and if there is more and I've missed it, I'd certainly welcome all of it, unless that is too enormous a task....And in this connection, I have a hunch, relative to a name or two different names, each of which I have phonetically, both Ralph. One is Conojo, the other, as pronounced by one knowing no Spanish at all "Con-sealy-o", or, if my recollection is dim, "Con-silly-o". If you or Jim have anything remotely like either, I am very anxious. Neither is in Jim's list.

It is pretty far out, but would you like to consider the first five names on the enclosed list in connection with the Shand file I sent you and my notes on it?

Way past bedtime, and I've been trying to keep decent hours.

P7

SURJ: "Raid at Lacombe, La. 7/31/63"

From information on hand here, two of the individuals apprehended and quickly released were:

Miguel Alvarez Jiminez  
& Antonio Soto Vasquez

In connection with Miguel Alvarez Jiminez, it is noted from CD1245 pages 274 & 275 that one Miguel Alvarez was a passenger on Flecha Roja Bus No. 516 which departed Monterrey, Nuevo Leon 7:30 pm 9/26/63. Oswald was a passenger on this bus. Alvarez would have boarded at Monterrey.

Regarding Antonio Soto Vasquez: In "The Invisible Government", Wise&Ross, Antonio Soto appears ages 60, 61 & 69. Described as "a small (five-foot-four) chestnut-haired ex-Cuban military pilot flew as "Paloma II" and was hit in one engine. He became the second exile pilot to land at Grand Cayman Island. He and his co-pilot, Benito R. "Campesino" Gonzalez, were flown back to Puerto Cabezas, but their plane remained behind on British territory."

From p.69: "Bene Garcia, Antonio Soto and Gustavo Ponzoa flew three of the B-26s in the strike force. Despite the presidential pledge that no Americans would participate in the fighting, the other two bombers were flown by American CIA pilots...." --Above two para. refer to Bay of Pigs operation--

I dont know if Alvarez & Soto at Lacombe are the same persons as their namesakes, but it might be worth the effort to check out. Presumably some work was done at New Orleans checking into the Lacombe people. I believe Byron Chiverton appeared before the Grand Jury, or was at least brought in for questioning. Pedro Pedro Mores is mentioned in a Lill Turner article. Lauchli is supposed to have been apprehended.

I would be interested in any information available on the above subjects.